

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Office Action of September 12, 2008, has been carefully considered.

It is noted that claims 20-34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) over German Patent DE 102 16 306 A1 to Ganski, et al.

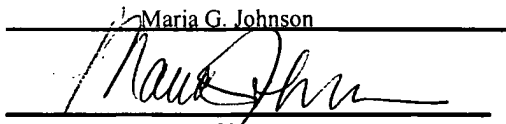
In view of the Examiner's rejection of claims 20-34, applicant encloses herewith a certified translation of the priority application DE 102 59 386.8. With the filing of the certified translation of the priority document, the instant application takes the benefit of the filing date of the priority document, namely December 19, 2002. This date precedes the publication date of Ganski, et al. of November 20, 2003. Ganski, et al. is not prior art with respect to the instant application and it is therefore respectfully requested that the rejections based on Ganski et al. be withdrawn.

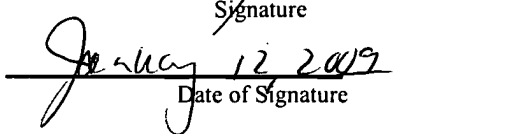
In view of these considerations, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of claims 20-34 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) over the above-discussed reference is overcome and should be withdrawn.

It is further respectfully submitted that the claims presently on file differ essentially and in an unobvious highly advantageous manner from the constructions disclosed in the references.

Reconsideration and allowance of the present application are respectfully requested.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450, on January 12, 2009


Maria G. Johnson


Signature


Date of Signature

KPS/mj

Respectfully submitted,



Brian E. Hennessey
Registration No.: 51,271
WOLFF & SAMSON PC
One Boland Drive
West Orange, New Jersey 07052
Telephone: (973) 530-2030
Fax: (973) 530-2230